#### BULLETIN

OF THE

# State University of New Mexico

WHOLE NUMBER 112

GEOLOGICAL SERIES 3

MAY, 1923

No. 5

### OIL AND GAS IN NEW MEXICO IN 1923

BY

#### ROBERT W. ELLIS

PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY
AND STATE GEOLOGIST

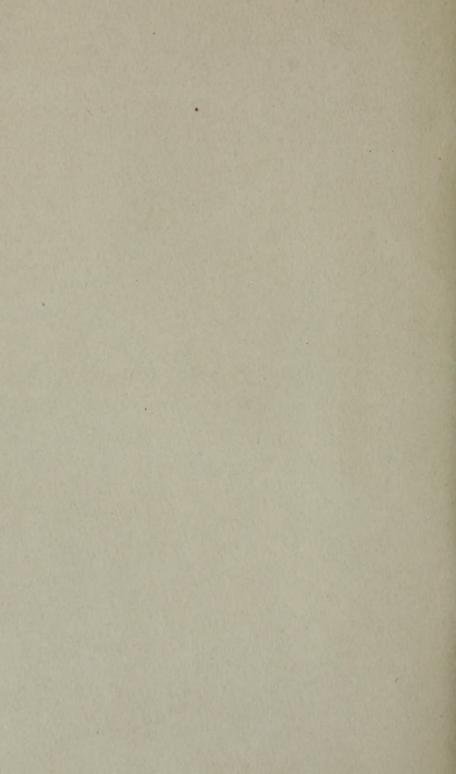
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FIFTY CENTS

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 1923

Second Quarter, June Issue





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# OIL AND GAS IN NEW MEXICO

BY ROBERT W. ELLIS

#### INTRODUCTION.

During the two years following the summer of 1920 the interest in New Mexico as an oil-producing State gradually died down. The number of new wells started decreased and many of those that had been started were abandoned. Well-conducted efforts to find oil in paying quantities in different parts of the State had failed. Some of the most favorable structures had seemed to prove barren of oil.

It is evident, however, that, in the meantime, all hope of finding oil in the State had not been given up by some of the large producers of oil. The rather startling developments near Farmington by the Midwest Refining Co. were but the culmination of a sustained effort to locate a successful well. The presence of gas in large quantities near Aztec was being demonstrated, and at least local interest had been maintained in the oil possibilities of that region.

With the bringing in of a well of noticeable and apparently of commercial proportions, the public interest was clutched and started in high gear. Newspaper reports were red with glowing accounts of the situation, and the more conservative individuals became aware that something unusual had happened.

Naturally, in other parts of the State, interest in oil development was awakened. Especially those areas where prospects had before seemed the most encouraging began again to show activity in oil propositions. Quay County and the Pecos region, Luna County and the Tularosa Basin, each felt a quickened impulse toward the demonstration of the oil possibilities of its own respective area.

Reports of the results at the "Hogback" well having spread to other states, many inquiries have been received by the writer, concerning the present oil conditions in the State. In order to facilitate the process of transmitting information desired in these inquiries, the writer has undertaken to set forth a summary of conditions, as far as is practicable under a rather limited opportunity for observation and collation of data. His thanks are due to various chambers of commerce and others who have sent in numerous statements of local conditions; also to the representatives of oil companies who have given valuable information pertaining to results attained through the investigations of these companies. He acknowledges a complimentary trip to the San Juan region furnished by the University of New Mexico.

Many of the wells named in this report have been mentioned in "The Oil Situation in New Mexico," Bulletin 101, University Publications, to which the reader is referred.

#### THE NORTHEASTERN SECTION.

Few developments are reported from the northeastern section of the State. In Union County no drilling had been done for some time, till the spring of 1923. The well on Ute Creek, near Bueyeros, was carried down to granite, as is supposed.

The McGee No. 1, near Tucumcari, was finally abandoned, after reaching a depth of over 4,000 feet. The San Jon and the Endee wells were abandoned and the rigs are moved away.

The Fowler Oil Co., in March, 1923, were preparing for drill-

ing 21 miles northwest of Clovis.

The Spaulding Dome Oil Co. had drilled to a depth of 335 feet, 23 miles north of Fort Sumner, when drilling was suspended temporarily. It was expected that drilling would be resumed here early in the year.

Late in the spring of 1923 drilling was more active in Quay

County.

The Dripping Springs well, sec. 25, T. 13 N., R. 31 W., being drilled by the Standard Petroleum Company, was reported as at a depth of 2,850 feet, in Pennsylvanian limestone. There has been considerable trouble with water, which it is now hoped has been overcome, so that drilling may soon be resumed. Some oil-showing is apparent.

The Williams-McClintock Oil Syndicate is drilling in sec. 8, T. 10 N., R. 29 E. On May 22, 1923, this well was reported to be 188 feet deep, oil having been found at 93 feet. The oil-bearing formation is said to be a dark shale, alternating with a very hard

sandstone, which continues to the present depth.

The Ogle Oil Company is reported to have drilled 682 feet in sec. 13, T. 9 N., R. 27 E. A showing of oil appeared at this

depth, in a hard red sandstone. This test is for a shallow oil—about 1,000 feet—in Permian strata.

H. T. McGee is making a test near Logan, sec. 9, T. 13 N., R. 34 E., north of the Canadian River.

Scanty information could be secured on certain wells drilled in Santa Fe County. Drilling there has evidently not produced results desired. Work on a well a few miles south of Galisteo has gone on intermittently since November, 1920. This well, called the "Wood" well, now under the operation of the Commander Mining Co., was reported, on April 30, 1923, to be 2,750 feet deep. There had been several traces of oil, but owing to the difficulty of controlling the water, the amount of showing could not be determined. The well is reported as passing through 1,500 feet of Mancos shale, in which a showing of oil and gas was encountered between 700 and 800 feet. Below the shale, about 450 feet of Dakota and associated sandstones were found. Red beds succeeded, from 1,950 to 2,750 feet.

The McGill well, 2 miles west of Taiban (sec. 36, T. 3 N., R. 27 W.) was shut down for repairs early in January. The following is given as the log of this well as far as drilled by Jan. 26, 1923:

F.e	eet.
Gray sandstone	100
Red sandstone, clay	50
Quicksand	110
Gray and red sandstone	260
Showing of gas for the last 100 feet.	

No particular oil excitement was prevalent around Vaughn or Mountainair, where more or less interest was centered in 1920.

Work on the Pasamonte well had been suspended several months when drilling was resumed in the spring of 1923. Mr. F. M. Wiseley, trustee of the Allison Oil Interests, Clayton. N. Mex., furnished the following record of this well:

Log of Heringa well No. 1, S. E. 1/4 S. E. 1/4 sec. 14, T. 24 N., R. 30 E., Pasamonte, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Yellow clay	0- 15
Blue clay	15- 45
Hard "shell" (sandstone)	45- 48
Blue shale	48- 80
Hard shale, white	80- 85
Blue shale	85- 90
Hard sand, "shell"	90- 94
	94- 110
Hard sand, white; gypsum	110- 122
Blue shale	122- 135
Hard sand, gray	135 - 138
Blue shale	
Soft sandstone and shale	150- 165
Hard sand: some water	165- 185

	F	eet.
Blue shale Soft sand; some shale Hard sandstone Sand and shale, blue Blue shale Hard sandstone, gray White sandstone and gypsum Hard sandstone	185- 198-	198
Soft sand: some shale	198-	215
Hard candstone	215-	223
Cand and shale blue	210-	220
Sand and shale, blue	223-	229
Blue snale	229-	
Hard sandstone, gray	242-	255
White sandstone and gypsum	255-	261
Hard sandstone	261-	296
Water sand	296-	
Water Sant		
Hard sandstone	320-	324
Hard sandstone (15½-inch casing set at 321 feet.)		
Soft sand Hard limestone, white Soft limestone, light red Hard limestone, dark red Hard limestone, brown Soft limestone, light brown Hard limestone, white	324-	326
Hard limestone, white	326-	
Soft limestone light red	333-	
Wand limestone dank and		
Hard limestone, dark red	336-	
Hard limestone, brown	342-	345
Soft limestone, light brown	345-	352
Hard limestone, white	352-	355
Soft limestone white	255	200
Timestand white and the 11-11	999-	200
Emiliestone, white and shells	380-	389
Soft limestone, white, and "Austin chalk"	389-	385
Hard limestone, white, "shells" and "Austin chalk"	395-	405
Soft limestone white "shells" and "Austin chalk"	405-	415
White limestone "shells" and "Austin shells"	415	197
Trad constitution and Austin Chark	410-	421
Hard gray limestone and "shells"	427-	430
Soft white limestone and "Austin chalk"	430-	450
Hard limestone, white Soft limestone, white Limestone, white and "shells" Soft limestone, white, and "Austin chalk" Hard limestone, white, "shells" and "Austin chalk". Soft limestone, white, "shells" and "Austin chalk". White limestone, "shells" and "Austin chalk". Hard gray limestone and "shells" Soft white limestone and "Austin chalk". Hard gray limestone and "shells" Soft gray limestone "Shells" and limestone, gray Soft limestone, light red Red rock Soft limestone, light red Red shale; inclined to cave	450-	453
Soft gray limestone	453-	465
"Shells" and limestone gray	100-	405
Cost limestone, glay	400-	495
Soft limestone, light red	495-	510
Red rock	510-	515
Soft limestone, light red	515-	530
Red rock	530-	550
Dod shale; inclined to sex	550-	550
The shale, inclined to cave	550-	999
Red shale	556-	
Rock, very light red	570-	585
Red shale; inclined to cave Red shale Rock, very light red White sandstone, soft Light red sand	585-	595
Light red sand	595-	635
Light red sand	605	COL
Ted Salu	000-	680
Red sandstone	685-	725
Red rock	725-	758
Red sandstone Red rock Water sand Red rock, red shale, red gumbo, light red mud and shale	758-	765
Red rock red shale red sumbo light red mud and shale	765-	979
"Canary" shale (brown gumbo)	070 1	010
Monage of the second state	919-1	010
Canary shale (brown gumbo)	010-1	058
Red rock and shaly sandstone1	058 - 1	100
(12½-inch casing set at 1058 feet)		
Red rock and shaly sandstone	100-1	190
Ped sandy shale; strocks of symbo	100 1	240
Ted sandy shale, streaks of gumbo	190-1	040
Red gumbo	340-1	394
Yellow clay	394 - 1	395
Light to dark brown shale1	395 - 1	470
Red gumbo		
shale)		
Prown shale and brown send	170 1	500
Brown shale and brown sand	470-1	520
Brown shale and brown sand. 1 Brown sand 1 Brown sandstone; pyrite 1 Gray limestone; pyrite 1	520-1	640
Brown sandstone; pyrite	640 - 1	815
Gray limestone; pyrite1	820-1	825
(8¼-inch casing set at 1820 feet, in gray lime-		
(674 -inch casing set at 1620 feet, in gray filme-		
stone)	00=	040
Gray sandstone and limestone	825-1	840
Gray limestone	840-1	849
Gray limestone and "shells"	849-1	883
Gray limestone	883 1	893
Hard limestone	009 1	0.07
Hard limestone	000-1	000
Hard black limestone	907-1	932
Hard gray limestone 500,000 feet "sulphur" gas1		948
Gray sand; gas, estimated at 500,000 feet	304-1	000
	948-1	968
Hard shell, then white sand	948-1 968-1	988
Hard "shell" then gray sand: 1000,000 feet of "am-	948-1 968-1	988
Hard shell, then white sand	948-1	988
Hard black limestone	948-1 948-1 968-1	968
Hard shell, then white sand	948-1 968-1 988-2 016-2	968 1988 1016 1031

Feet.
Shale "break"
Blue shale, limestone and "shell"
"Resemblance of Pennsylvania oil sand"; good oil
showing
Hard "shell"
Limestone and "shell"
"Shell" and white sand
Gray and red sand; water at 2155; quick sand at 2160.2142-2166
Quicksand
Hard "shell"
(65%-inch casing)
Red sand and gray limestone
Gray sandy limestone
Water sand
Hard white sand
Pink limestone
White sand
Red and white sandy limestone2319-2378
White sand; salt water
"Sugar" sand, or "Ford" sand

#### THE PECOS REGION.

Increased activity is showing in the Pecos region. Conditions were reported as given in the following paragraphs. The Hawkins well, 3 miles southeast of Dayton, drilled by the Kansas-New Mexico Company, was reported as being pumped and yielding 20 barrels a day on January 22, 1923. This well is about 1,000 feet deep. This company was starting another well 500 feet from this well, northeast (see. 3, T. 18 S., R. 26 E.)

The Buffalo-Roswell Company was reported drilling 22 miles east of Roswell and had reached a depth of about 2.500 feet.

S. L. Bent was making several shallow tests 15 miles north of Roswell.

The Illinois Producers Company were starting to drill near the Hawkins well.

Some oil was being produced from the Brown well and the Belt well.

The Illinois Producing and Refining Co. were building a standard rig in sec. 31, T. 18 S., R. 28 E. This company had drilled wells at Dayton and Lakewood. They struck oil in each well, but not in important amount.

Sol Stage was preparing to start a new well 300 feet south of the Brown well.

The following generalized section was given by Martin Yates, Jr., an experienced driller of Artesia:

#### Generalized geologic section west of Pecos River:

			Feet.
Red beds		 	
Cap rock		 	?
Water-bearing	sandstone	 	?
Limestone		 	
Oil sand		 	70

#### THE SOUTHWESTERN SECTION.

Drilling was being continued at the Angelus well, 22 miles southeast of Deming. Early in the year this well was at a depth of 3,150 feet, "with good indications."

Log of Angelus well No. 1, N. E. 1/4 S. L. 1/4 sec. 8, T. 26, S., R. 8 W

T	Peet.
Gravel	
Clay 18	
Sand 56	
Clay and sand 75	
Clay 89	
Sand	
Sand and clay	
Clay	
Heaving sand	-1571/2
Sand and water gravel	
Sand and clay	
Clay	
Sticky clay	
Running mud	
Quicksand	
Clay241	
Quicksand	
Clay	
Ouicksand	
Clav	-214
Red clay	
Gray clay; caving	
Red clay351	-382
Red sliding clay	-434
Red clay "spanstone" 434	-465
Red clay, "soapstone" 434 Red clay, sticky 465	-523
Ouicksand: heavy water flow	-525
Gray sandy clay	
Red clay	-553
Gray sandy clay	
Quicksand; heavy water flow580	
Gray sand and clay	-589
Quicksand and water gravel; heavy flow589	-594
Sand and water	-616
Gray sticky clay	-630
Clay	
Sand and gravel; heavy water flow642	-657
Clay and gravel	-670
Black sand	-700
Clay and gravel	
Sand and gravel	~800
Water, gravel and sand800	
Packed sand and boulders885	-920
Gravel and sand920	-941
	-981
Packed sand and boulders941	-1056
Red clay and boulders981	-1071
Gray sand rock	-1119
Red gumbo and boulders	-1174
Red shale and gumbo	-1174
"Lime"; brown shale	-1244
"Lime" and boulders	
Brown shale	-1374 -1396
Gray sand rock	
Hard gumbo and boulders	-1504 -1520
Packed gray sand and gravel	-1520 -15°4
Gray sand rock	-1574
Gumbo and boulders	-1000

<sup>&</sup>quot;It will be seen that the location of this well does not agree with that given en page 2" of "The Oil Situation in New Mexico." The present data were given by the secretary of the Angelus Oil Mining Association, and are doubtless correct.

#### OIL AND GAS IN NEW MEXICO

Feet.
Brown sandy shale         1560-1567           Red sumbo         1567-1600           Hard red gumbo         1600-1665
Red gumbo
Hard red gumbo
Hard gray rock
Brown loose shale
Hard red gumbo     1000-1053       Hard gray rock     1665-1670       Brown loose shale     1670-1728       Lime rock, gray     1728-1738       Red gypsum and gravel     1738-1754       Cement gravel     1754-1763       Clay     1764-1770       Sandy shale     1770-1775
Cement cravel
Clay 1764-1770
Sandy shale
Sandy shale         1770-1775           Sand         1775-1779
Gravel         1779-1781           Clay         1781-1816           Sand and gravel         1816-1822           Clay         182-1865           Sand         182-1867
Clay
Sand and gravel
Cond 1865—1873
1873-1965
Clay 1873-1965 Sand 1965-2044
Clay       2044-2125         Red clay, sticky, tough       2137-2164         Red clay       2164-2194
Red clay, sticky, tough2137-2164
Red clay
Sticky red clay
Sticky red clay, with streaks of sand
Sticky red clay, with streaks of sand
Sandstone, streaks of red clay2257-2268
Hard "shell"
Red clay and hard sand
Red clay streaked with sand and thin "shells"2274-2293
Clay and sand
Red coarse sand streaked with red sticky clay2204-2213
Hard sand
Fig. and 225 a
Sandstone, streaks of red clay
Sticky red clay
Hard "shell"
Fine sand2364-2370
Sticky red clay
Medium hard "shell"
Sticky and clay thin streets of send
Sticky red clay, thin streaks of said
Fine sand
Sticky red clay       2312-2314         Sticky red clay       2314-2320         Red clay with hard streaks of sandstone       2120-2430         Dark red clay, streaks of standstone       2430-2440         Red clay, streaks of thin "shells"       2440-2451         Hard "shell"       2451-2454         Hard "shell"       2456-2458         Hard "shell"       2456-2458
Red clay with hard streaks of sandstone2420-2430
Dark red clay, streaks of standstone2430-2440
Red clay, streaks of thin "shells"2440-2451
Hard "snell"
Hard "chell" 2456 2459
Dark blue shale with streaks of rock few oil colors 2458-2469
Hard "shell"
Sticky red clay       2468-2471         Fine sand       2471-2474         Red clay, streaked sand and rock       2474-2479
Fine sand2471-2474
Red clay, streaked sand and rock
Coarse gray sand         2481-2486           Sticky red clay         2486-2490           Hard sand rock         2490-2494
Hard sand rook 2490-2490
Sticky red clay
Sticky red clay         2494-2499           Hard "shell"         2499-2500
Sticky red clay
Hard sand
Hard "snell"
Red clay and red shale; few colors
Sticky red clay 2500-2510 Hard sand 2510-2511 Hard "shell" 2511-2514 Red clay and red shale; few colors 2514-2520 Red clay, streaks of red shale and rock 2520-2525 Hard rock with thin streaks sandstone and red shale 2525-2532
Sticky red clay
Hard "shell"
Medium hard "shell"2568-2570
Red clay and red shale2570-2595

	Feet.
Red clay, streaks fine sand and hard streaks of rock.	
Red clay and red shale	2605-2620
Fine hard sand	
Red shale and red clay	9691-9610
Streaks of sand and red clay	
Red clay and red shale, streaks of blue shale, har	a
sand and limestone, thin "shell" and black shale.	9050 9050
Hard "shell"	
Red clay, streaks of hard sandstone	9601 9704
Hard "shell"	
Red clay, streaks of hard rock	9707 9719
Red clay, streaks of hard rock	9719 9794
Red clay	9794 9795
Red clay and fine sand	
Fine running sand	.4140-4700
Hard "shell"	0750 0005
Red clay and red shale, streaks of thin "shells"	2100-2001
Fine sand streaked with thin "shell"	.2001-2011
Red clay and red shale, streaks of hard sandstone	.28/1-2945
Fine gray sand	
Red clay, streaks of sandstone	
Sandstone, thin layers of red clay	.2965-2970
Red clay and brown shale, streaks of sandstone	.2970-3005
Sticky red clay	.3005-3020
Fine gray sand	.3020-3023
Red clay, streaks of hard rock	
Black hard rock	.3044-3046
Red clay, streaks of brown shale and sandstone	.3046-3065
Sticky red clay, streaks of red shale and sandstone	.3065-3075
Black rock; looks like black "lime"	.3075-3077
Red clay and brown shale, hard streaks of sandstone.	.3077-3092
Red clay, thin streaks of conglomerate	.3092-3100
Red clay and brown shale, streaks of red rock	
Hard "shell"	.3108-3110
Fine sand	.3110-3114
Red clay and brown shale, hard streaks of sandstone.	.3114-3140
Red clay and brown shale	
Hard "shell"	.3147-3149
Red clay, hard streak of rock	.3149-3157
Red clay and shale with hard streaks of rock	.3157-3165
Fine sand	.3165-3170
Red clay, streaks of brown and blue shale	
Red clay with hard streaks of sandstone	.3188-3195
Sandy red shale and hard streaks of sandstone	.3195-3212
Hard rock, thin streaks of red shale	.3212-3245
Hard sandstone and red shale	.3245-3255
Hard rock	.3255-3260
Red clay, sandstone, streaks of hard rock	
Red clay and red shale, streaks of hard rock and sand	-
stone	.3340-3365

The Florida well also was being deepened. It was at a depth of 700 feet when last reported.

The well of the Southwestern Tularosa Basin Oil Co., 12 miles northwest of Tularosa, was down to a depth of about 3,300 feet. No development was reported for other locations in Otero County.

Several wells drilled for water about 20 miles north of Quemado are said to have considerable oil showings. One of these was abandoned as a stock well on account of the amount of oil accumulating in the well. No other wells were reported for the southwestern quarter of the State.

#### THE SAN JUAN REGION.

Developments in the San Juan region late in the summer of 1922 were responsible for the present renewal of interest in oil production in the State. A well drilled by the Midwest Refining Company a few miles from Shiprock was brought in with an estimated initial production of 350 barrels. While the immediate excitement created by this well has abated somewhat, there is yet a steady trend of interest toward the San Juan country in general. Since a large part of this territory lies within the boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation, where the process of securing leases is somewhat slow, this portion of the Basin is not being developed, except for the work of the Midwest Refining Company above referred to. Certain areas that lie outside the Reservation, however, seem likely to become the sites of active operations during the summer of 1923.

For the present, the Seven Lakes district remains rather quier. The several wells that were drilled there a few years ago were unproductive of oil in any considerable quantities. No new

wells have been reported.

Farther southeast, near Ambrosia Lake, the Texas Production Company is preparing to drill on sec. 13 (or 24), T. 15 N., K. 10. W. This structure is well-defined and had been drilled to a shallow depth in 1920.

In the southeastern part of McKinley County, drilling is being started by the Midwest Refining Company. This company has built a road into the territory of the sites of these two wells. One of these locations is on the Miguel Creek structure, Tafoya and Chavez grants. The other is in T. 14 N, R. 8 W.

On April 25, 1923, the Producers and Refiners spudded in a well 4 miles southeast of Gallup—W. side S. W. 14 sec. 25, T.

15 N., R. 18 W.

The two wells, Mesaverde Nos. 1 and 2, near Flora Vista. drilled prior to 1920, have been abandoned.

Two wells have been drilled near Aztec since 1920, by the Aztec Oil Syndicate. In each of these wells gas was struck at about 900 feet. From one of these wells gas is being supplied to the town of Aztec. The capacity of these wells is said to be 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 cubic feet each.

Other wells productive of gas are located in the southeastern part of Ute Indian Reservation. Ute well No. 1 is located 23 miles, by road, from Farmington, up the La Plata Valley, on sec. 35, T. 32 N., R. 14 W. Gas was encountered in this well at about 2,300 feet. Before the gas flow was finally restrained, 340 feet of casing was blown from the well. The gas also was accidentally ignited and the rig was burned. This well showed a pressure of 460 pounds while supplying gas for the boiler of a near-by drilling outfit.

Log of Ute well No. 1, Midwest Refining Co., on Ute Indian Reservation, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Sand	. 0- 14
Shale	
Sand	
Shale	
Dark shale and light sand	
Hard sand	
Shale, broken	
Shale, hard	
Shale: showing of oil and gas at 210 feet	
Sand, hard; bad hole from 225 to 230 feet	
Hard white sand	
Close dark sand	. 245- 255
"Broken"	
Hard dark sand	
Dark shale	
Shale	
White shale	
ShaleLight hard shale	
Light hard "shell"	
Light hard rock	
Light shale	
Sand	. 400- 410
Dark shale	
"Muddy" shale	
Dark shale	. 468- 520
(commenced on 15½-inch casing) Brown sandy shale	E94 610
Brown sandy shale ("encountered at 610 feet")	524-610
Grav shale	. 610- 710
Gray shale	710- 740
Gray shale	740-850
Gray shale, sharp, sandy	
Gray shale	
Brown shale	
Gray shale	
Black shale	1010 2050
Soft black shale	2050 2100
Gray shale	2100-2190
Sand and gas	
Sand	
"Missing"	. 2265-2285
Sand; 4.000.000 cu. ft. gas	2285-2320
Sand; 4,000,000 cu. ft. gas, additional	2320-2325

A second well was commenced by the Midwest Refining Company, November 29, 1921. This well is located a few rods east of well No. 1, on slightly higher ground. The well is capped and has a pressure of 700 pounds. A log of well No. 2 follows:

Log of Utc well No. 2, Midwest Refining Co., sec. 35, T. 32 N., R. 14 W., N. Mex.

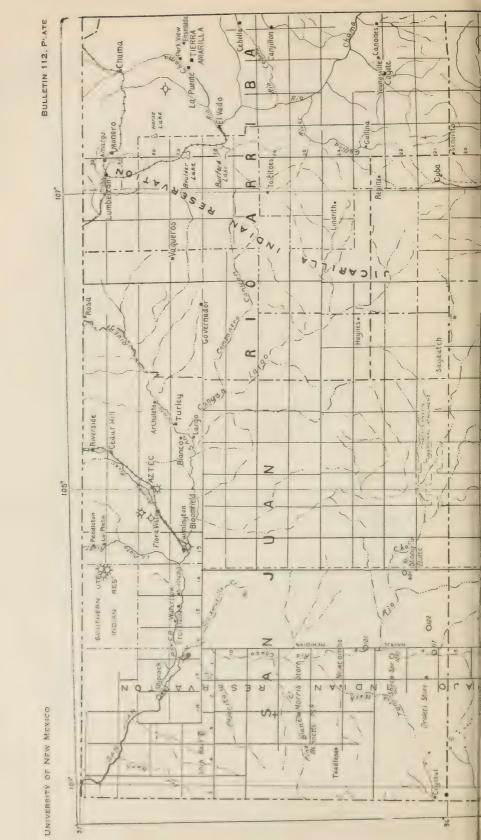
F	eet.
Surface 0	- 20
Sand light brown 20	- 55
Gray sand	- 85
Grav shale 85	- 115
Shale	- 190
Sand	- 200
Grav sand 200	- 220
Blue-black shale	- 230
	- 260
Grav sandy shale 260	- 290
Gray shale, sandy; gas at 625 feet	-1125
Gray shale; small amount gas at 1600 feet	-1730
Black shale; thin "shell" at 1975 feet	-2020
Black shale2020	
'Soapstone'2075	
Black shale	-2095
Gray shale	-2120
Hard gray shale	-2130
Lime "shell"	-2135
Hard gray shale2135	
Gray shale	-2205
"Shell" over sand	-2208
Sand	-2240
Hard sand2240	-2280
Soft sand and "breaks" of shale, black	-2285
Hard sand	-2322
Shale and sand	-2325
Shale	-2340
Sand	-2365
Sand, carrying gas2365	-2370
Soft sand, carrying gas	-2376
Sand, carrying gas	-2379
Sand	-2383
"Made 12 feet stringing in"	-2395
"Made 12 feet stringing in" 2383 Gas sand, and shale partings	-2410
Hard "shell" and sand	1-2419
Gas sand	-2420
Gas sand, with shale partings2420	-2428
(mudded off)	

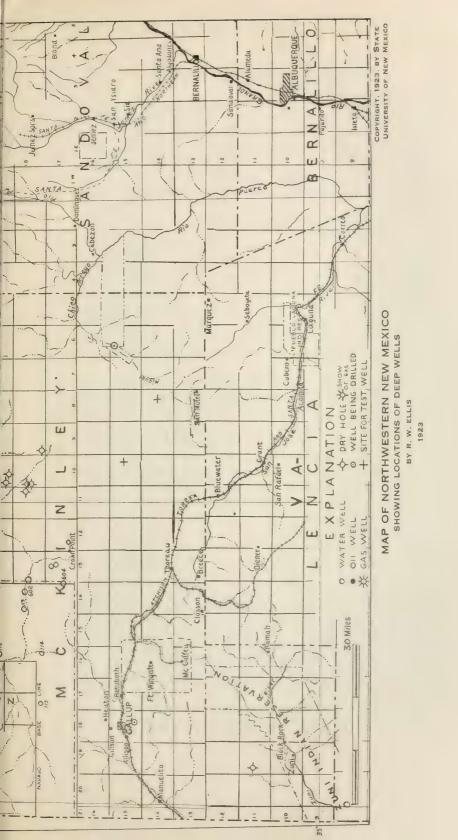
The combined capacity of these two wells is said to be 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

About 30 rods south of the wells of the Midwest Refining Company, is a third well. This was drilled by W. E. Lockhart. The location is the northwest quarter of section 1, T. 31 N., R. 14 W. The well was commenced March 4, 1923, and was completed on April 23, 1923. Its depth is 2,385 feet. From 2,370 feet the rock pressure was 700 pounds and the tested capacity was 70,000,000 cubic feet. The elevation of the mouth of this well is 6,425 feet, which is on slightly lower ground than the other two wells. A log is given below:

Log of Lockhart's Ute well No. 1, N. W. 1/4 sec. 1, T. 31 N., R. 14 W., Ute Indian Reservation, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Surface	0- 10
Shale	10- 60
"Shells" and shale	60- 70
Sandy, dry	70- 187
Sandy shale: little water at 310	187- 320
Shale	320-1100





Feet,
"Shells and shale
Shale1200-1520
"Shells" and shale
Shale
"Shells" and shale, gray2020-2050
Shale, green, hard
Sand: 250,000 feet of gas at 2180
Broken sand and "shells"; small amount of gas at
2215; 1,250,000 feet of gas at 2280
Shale, black
White sand; 5,000,000 feet of gas at 23402320-2340
Sand and "shells"
White gas sand: 70,000,000 feet of gas and a rock pres-
sure of 700 lbs. from 2370 to 2385

The oil well which comes nearest to being commercially productive of any ever drilled in New Mexico, and which has caused a revival of interest in the oil possibilities of the State, is the one completed in the early fall of 1922 by the Midwest Refining Company. This well is located on what is known as the "Hogback" structure, so named from its association with the Hogback ridge running southwest from the San Juan River halfway between Farmington and Shiprock. A second well was later completed on the same structure.

This structure comprises about 24,000 acres and lies wholly within the Navajo Indian Reservation. The crest of the structure is well toward the southeastern corner, and there the wells are located. This location is about 15 miles southeast of Shiprock—sec. 19, T. 29 N., R. 16 W. It is reached by a good road from Shiprock. From Farmington the road has a very sandy arroyo to cross. The wells are situated on a terrace of the San Juan River about 2 miles from that river. They are immediately on the south edge of Rio Chaco, which enters the San Juan River a few miles farther northwest.

Well No. 1 is at the edge of a small arroyo near its junction with Rio Chaco. These arroyos have cut down about 100 feet in the terrace, exposing the structure of the underlying sediments to that depth. This well is 777 feet deep. Oil was struck in considerable quantity at 775 feet. On flowing into the tanks water appeared with the oil. The water troubles were so serious that neither the company nor the Bureau of Mines was able to evercome them. The well is now cemented off and is not producing. It was estimated to produce 360 barrels, but no accurate measurement was made, on account of lack of facilities for storage. The oil is of a very high grade—said to be 60° Baumé.

Well No. 2 is located about 1,000 feet northwest of No. 1 and on about the same level. It was drilled to a depth of 783 feet.

No oil or gas was encountered in this well. Operations ceased on these wells March 16, 1923.

Hogback well No. 3 has been located in N. W. ½ sec. 20, T. 29 N., R. 16 W. It is 3,987 feet east and 375 feet north of well No. 1.

Log of Midwest well No. 1, Hogback structure, S. W. 1/4 N. E. 1/4 sec. 19, T. 29 N., R. 16 W.

Feet.
Sandstone, yellow, solid 0-40
Shale 40-60
Sandstone and shale
Sandy shale100-150
Sandy shale
Hard "shell"
Light gray shale
Black shale, soft
Gray shale, soft
Black shale, soft500-600
Gray shale, soft
Hard "shell"
Soft gray shale
Soft gray shale
Coarse sand772-775 (flowing)

Log of Midwest well No. 2, Hogback structure, S. W. ¼ N. E. ¼ sec. 19, T. 29 N., R. 16 W.

	Feet.
Soil	0- 10
Shale	10- 20
Sandstone, yellow	
Shale, black	
Shale, dark, sandy	
Shale, dark, sandy, soft	
Shale, dark, sandy	
Shale, dark	
"Shell," hard	
Shale, dark gray	
Shale, gray	380-760
"Soapstone"	
Shale, gray	
Sandstone	73-783
(dry hole)	

The Midwest Refining Company began drilling on the Miguel Creek structure, McKinley County, April 24, 1923. The location is in sec. 4, T. 15 N., R. 6 W. On May 15, 1923, the hole was 400 feet deep, in brown shale. Water had been abundant below 65 feet and was hindering progress. It was planned to use 20-inch casing for the first 500 feet.

Mr. H. F. Robinson, superintendent of the United States Indian Irrigation Service, has furnished the following records of

water wells, most of which are located on the Navajo Indian Reservation:

Log of Tohatchi well-Government well No. 113-about 15 miles southeast of Tohatchi, middle of T. 17 N., R. 18 W.

	Feet.
Sand and clay	0- 80
Fine sand	80- 102
Shale	102-104
Tough blue clay	104- 112
Shale and shallow layers rock	112- 174
Light gray sandstone, hard	174- 186
Shale and slate	186- 192
Light gray sandstone, hard	192- 225
Shale	225- 234
Sandstone Shale Shale	236- 242
Slate, hard	242- 250
Sandstone	250- 262
Shal	260- 285
Sandstone, extraordinarily hard	285 - 288
Sandstone, loose	288- 298
Coal; water rose to 28 feet of surface	298- 299
Shale, tough and sticky	299- 332
Shale	332- 340
Sandstone	340- 342
"Slate," very hard	342- 356
Sandstone	356- 357
Shale	357- 398
Sandstone; water rose to 20 feet of surface	398- 402
Shale Shale, sandstone, and coal	428- 436
Gallup fire clay	436- 446
Rock, dark, very hard; carrying mineral	446- 454
Light gray sandstone	452- 620
Fire clay	620- 622
Light gray sandstone	622- 684
Dark brown sandstone	684- 702
Fire clay	702- 722
Light gray sandstone	722- 742
Fire clay	742- 753
Light gray sandstone	753 - 774
Fire clay Sandstone; thin layer of coal	774- 800 800- 816
Fire clay	516- 906
Light gray sandstone; water over casing	906- 943
Coal	943- 916
Light gray sandstone	946- 949
Fire clay	949- 955
	955- 964
Fire clay	984- 988
Shale	
Close-grained sandstone, hard	
Fire clay, very tough and sticky	018-1035
Light yellow sandstone; water flow	050-1058
Light gray sandstone	058-1082
Light yellow sandstone; heavy flow	
Light gray sandstone; flow 6000 gals. per hr1	094-1108
Shale1	

Log of Government well No. 114, in Coyote Canyon, about 15 miles southeast of Tohatchi Indian School.

	Feet.
Clev, mostly vellow	0- 11
Cles 2001 rock water at 50 feet	11- 51
Clar mostly blue	54 - 82
Sand tone, water ries	82- 90
Sand tope, red, hard	90-113
Clay, blue	13-142

		Feet.
Sandstone, gray	 	42-150
Fire city	 	00-170
Flow	 4)	0.0 = 2.0 4

(Water rose from 42 feet to top of  $5\,\%$  -inch pipe and flows over at the rate of 500 gals. per hour.)

### Log of Government well No. 116, about 8 miles northeast of well No. 113.

Sandy soil 0- 3	Feet.
Sandy clay 3- 10	
Yellow clay 10-34	
Sandy yellow clay 34-44	
Sandy rock, coarse	44- 48
Blue clay	
Sandy rock, gray 82-94	
Fire clay 94-122	
Sandstone	
Fire clay	128-150
Rock, black, hard	
Fire clay	151-159
Fire clay, yellow	159-200
Sandy rock; little water200-204	200-204
Fire clay	
Sandstone	
Shale	520-530

#### Log of Government well No. 117, 12 miles north of well No. 116.

Feet.
Clay
Rock
Fire clay
Clay, yellow
Fire clay 60- 80
Sandstone 80- 90
Fire clay
Sandstone
Fire clay
Sandstone; water
Fire clay
Sandstone; flow
Fire clay
Sandstone
Clay, yellow
Sandstone
Clay, yellow 394-396
Sandstone
Fire clay
Sandstone: flow
Clay, yellow
Sandstone
Fire clay
Sandstone; flow458-470
Clay, light yellow
Fire clay
Sandstone; flow, 2,000500-532
Coal
Sandstone
Slate and shale542-550

<sup>(</sup>A few inches of coarse sandstone was encountered at 294, where water rose over top of casing.)

### Log of Government well No. 118, near Hastquin Yazhe's, about 8 miles east of well No. 116.

Feet.	
Clay 0- 10	,
Sandstone 10- 12	
Clay	
Rock	
Fire clay	
Rock, hard, dark	
Fire clay 22- 28	
Sandstone	
Coal 30- 32	
Sandstone	
Fire clay 34-136	
S indistance	
Fire clay	
Sandstone, coarse-grained	
Fire clay	
Sandstone; more flow415-417	
Fire clay	
Shale	
Rock, dark	
Shale	
Sandstone; water	
Fire clay	
Sandstone; more flow	
Fire clay	
Shale543-555	

#### Log of Government well No. 119, about 9 miles east of well No. 116.

. F	eet.
Sandy soil 0	- 2
Clay	- 12
Broken rock	- 14
Clay	- 26
Sandstone	
Fire clay 50.	- 80
Sandstone80	
Fire clay 82.	
Sandstone; flow	152
Fire clay	
Sandstone; more flow	-182
Fire clay	228
Sandstone, coarse-grained; no water	
Fire clay	410

### Log of Government well No. 120, 7 miles east of Charles Newcomb's store,

	Feet.
Sandy soil	0 - 5
Clay, dark yellow	5- 20
Clay, dark	
Fire clay	
Rock and coal; first water	
Fire clay	
Broken rock	70- 76
Clay and rock	
Fire clay	
Rock, hard	
Fire clay	
S ndstone	190-192
Fire clay	192-205
Sandstone: flow	
Fire clay	
Sandstone	
Fire clay	
Slate	
Fire clay	
Sandstone; more flow	
Fire clay	202-300

,	Teet.
Shale	
Sandstone	2-366
Fire clay	6-396
Sandstone	
Fire clay40	
Sandstone: more flow42	
Fire clay	
Shale	
Fire clay	
Shale	
Fire clay	
Shale	4-458

### Log of Government well No. 502, Laguna Reservation, 350 feet south of depot.

	Feet.
Soil	
White sandstone	4- 32
Gray sandstone	2- 55
Red sandstone 5	5-112
Red clay	2-243
'Cystallized' gypsum24	3-267
Gypsum	7-304
(surface of ground to water, 40 feet)	

#### Log of Government well, sec. 10, T. 17 N., R. 13 W.

	Feet.
Brown sand	50- 75
Brown shale	75- 90
Coal	90- 95
"Slate"	95- 100
Sand	100- 205
Brown shale	205- 220
Sand	220- 300
Shale and sand	
Sand	500- 565
Sand and shale	
Sand	620 - 722 $722 - 727$
Sand and shale	
Sand	1 = 1
Shale and sand	
Sand and shale	
Sand hard	
Shale	
DIRECT	1202-1-00

### Log of Government well No. 601, Stony Butte, 20 miles east of Manning's store, Navajo Indian Reservation, N. Mex.

Feet.	
Clay and rock 0- 10	
Black shale 10-86	
Hard rock	
Sindstone, soft; water 90- 94	
Shale, brown 94-144	
Sandstone, gray; water rose to 56-ft. level144-175	
Shale, brown	
Hard rock	
Shale, black	
Hard rock	
Shale, black	
Sandstone, gray310-315	
Shale, blue	
Sandstone, gray; water flow	
Shale, blue	
Sandstone, gray; water flow	
Shale, brown	
Sandstone, gray; water flow	
Shale, brown494-517	
Sandstone, gray; flow	
Shale, blue	

Log of Government well No. 602, near the hogan of Charley Jesus, 12 miles north of Peach Springs, Navajo Indian Reservation, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Clay and rock	0-10
Clay	10- 52
Blue shale	
Brown shale	70- 86
Hard rock	86- 90
Shale	90-168
Gray sandstone: water	168-179
Shale	179-258
Gray sandstone	258-263
Shale	263-285
Gray sandstone; water rose to 30 feet	285-303
Shale	303-393
Gray sandstone	393-401
Shale	401-604
Gray sandstone	604-632
Shale	
Gray sandstone; water rose to 8 feet	
Shale	
Gray sandstone	
Shale	
Gray sandstone	
Shale	
Gray sandstone	
Shale	
Coul	
Gray sandstone; flow	
Shale	387-900

Log of Government well No. 603, 2 miles west of Newman's ranch, in "Moon Water Valley," Navajo Indian Reservation, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Broken rock	
Clay	4- 30
Clay, with traces of coal	30- 38
Blue shale	38- 45
Co 1	45 - 47
Blue shale	47- 70
Clay and coal	70- 75
Grav sandstone	75- 89
Hard rock	89- 91
Blue shale	
Gray sandstone	01-126
Blue shale	26-130
Gray sandstone; water rose to 120 feet	30-205
Blue shale	05-238
Hord rock	35-241
Blue shale	11-268
Black shale	68-490
Gras sandstone; flow	90-504
Bb - hale	01-510
Com1	10-514
Blue shale	
Coal5	
Blue shular	18-530
Sandstone, chalky	
Blue shale	
Gine samistoner water flow	
Blue shale	88-596

Log of Government well No. 604, 1 mile of Dalton Pass store, Navajo Indian Reservation, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Soil	0 - 12
Clay and rock	12- 40
Blue shale	40- 63
Gray sandstone; small amount of water, 80 feet	63- 88
Blue shale	88- 200
Grav sandstone: water, no rise above 80 feet	200- 210
Coal	210- 212
Black shale	212- 244
Gray sandstone; water rose to 68 feet	244- 252
Blue shale	
Gray sandstone: water rose to 64 feet	265- 276
Blue shale	276- 300
Clay sandstone; water rose to 53 feet	300- 306
Black shale	306- 655
Brown shale, with thin layers of sandstone	655- 680
Gray sandstone; very fine water rose to 52 feet	680- 710
Black shale	710- 820
Brown sandstone; water rose to surface	820- 830
Black shale	830- 850
Gray sandstone; water, no rise	850- 865
Black shale	
Gray sandstone; water, flow	
Black shale	
Diack Shale	320-1014

Log of Government well No. 605, sec 10, T. 17 N., R. 13 W., Government Farm, Crownpoint, N. Mex.

	Feet.
Clay	0- 6
Coal, poor quality	6- 9
Black shale	9- 50
Gray sandstone: water rose to 45 feet	50- 82
Hard sandstone	82- 84
Gray sandstone: water, no rise above 45 feet	84- 118
Black shale	118- 130
Gray sandstone: water, no rise above 45 feet	
Blue shale	
Gray sandstone, water, rose to 2 feet	
Brown shale	
Gray sandstone and shale: water flow	687- 740
Brown shale	
Dirty sandstone	
Shale and sandstone	765 - 776
Gray sandstone	776- 835
Blue shale	835-1040
Gray sandstone	1040-1042
Blue shale	1042-1100
Layers of sandstone and shale	1100-1196

This well flowed 1,050 gallons per hour, but it was not known from what stratum the flow came. The water is "hard," with sulphur and iron. The well was finished, June 30, 1922.

A well recently finished at the Shiprock Indian school has a flow of 20 gallons of water per minute and a closed pressure of 110 pounds. This well has 540 feet of 55%-inch casing and 998 feet of 6-inch; none below 998 feet. No oil or gas was encountered.

Log of water well at Shiprock Indian School, Shiprock, N. Mex.

7		Feet.
	Sand and gravel deposit of river	
	Shale, dark	40-275
	Sandstone, fine-grained quartz; salty water	275- 288
	Sandstone, hard, gray	288- 295
	Shale, dark	295- 327
	Sandstone, fine-grained, brittle, light gray	327- 332
	Shale, dark	332- 620
	Shale, dark, containing variable amounts of "talc"	
	Sandstone, flour-grained, very dense, gray, strong	
	sulphur water, flowing 1 gallon per minute	
	Shale, black, hard	
	Shale, brown, containing fine grains of sand	1010-1030
	Sandstone, flour-grained, gray; sulphur water	
	Shale, dark, with occasional streaks of brown	
	Sandstone, "Dakota"; flow of 10 gallons per minute	
	"Talc", light color	
	Shale, light green	1126-1128
	Shale, red	1128-1134
	Coal	1134-113446
	"Talc", light green	3416-1139
	Shale, brown	
	Coal	
	"Talc", white	
	Shale, brown	
	"Talc", white	
	Shale, light color	
	Sandstone, white: 2d sand of the Dakota, with flow of	
	10 gallons per minute of good water	
	Shale, red	1169-1170
	"Talc". light, with spots of brown	1170-1200

#### CONCLUSIONS.

Up to the present time the great amount of exploration that has been done has failed to demonstrate conclusively the presence of oil in this State in quantities sufficient to become commercially important. The hopes that were raised at the apparent success of the Midwest Company on the Hogback structure, have not been realized, although the results obtained in well No. 1 have suggested the possibility of finding more favorable occurrences of oil in other parts of the San Juan region. That portion of the State is being more thoroughly explored than ever before, and numerous wells are being projected. On January 22, 1923, there were pending in the office of the superintendent of the Navajo Indian Agency, at Shiprock, 90 applications for permission to negotiate with the Tribal Council for leases.

It is supposed that the suspension of work on the Hogback structure is due to the lack of storage and transportation facilities. The full possibilities of this well can, therefore, hardly be said to have been demonstrated. At the present time progress in development of the area is somewhat delayed, pending final arrangements with the Government and the Indians for the leasing of lands on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

More promising than the indications for oil in this State, are the prospects for gas. The results of drilling at Aztec and near La Plata give evidence of large possibilities in gas production for the northern part of San Juan County. Of course, it is not to be supposed that the presence of gas in such abundance necessarily signifies that oil is present in commercial quantities.

That favorable structures are to be found in the San Juan Basin, there is no question. But what has not yet been shown, is the presence or absence of a definite formation suitable for the accumulation of oil, along with carbonaceous deposits of sufficient magnitude to furnish a large supply of oil. Some geologists claim to have traced the Frontier formation from Wyoming, through Colorado, to New Mexico. While it may be possible that a certain horizon is represented here, it does not necessarily follow that a richly petroliferous formation in another State occurs here equal in thickness and in all other respects.

The logs of the water wells made by the United States Indian Irrigation Service generally show strong flows of water, but it is noticeable that none of them shows a trace of oil or gas. It is not likely, however, that these wells were located with respect to structures suitable for the accumulation of oil. The depths of most of them are too shallow to give a very decisive test for the presence of oil in those localities.

The present outlook for a moderate production of oil and gas in the State may be said to be rather more encouraging than the outlook in 1920. The San Juan Basin continues to be the most promising of any part of the State, and this region seems to hold the center of interest.

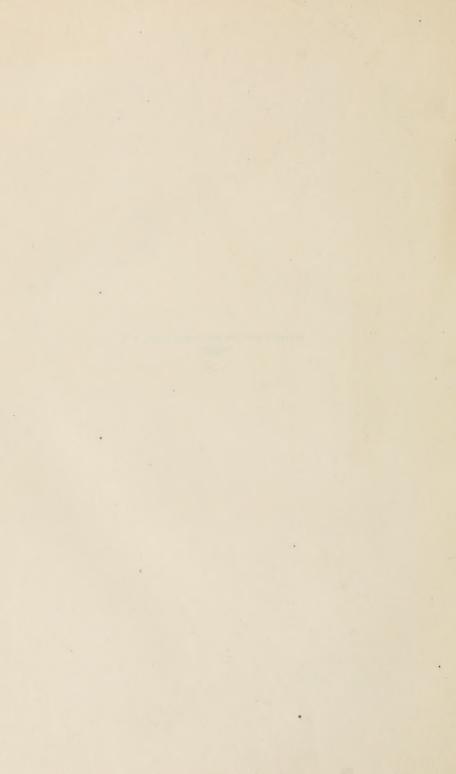


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